

FOOD INFORMATION



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON

MAY 1943

No. 4

FARM LABOR CAMPAIGN

Thumbnail Sketch of the U. S. Crop Corps

What It Is. The U. S. Crop Corps is the national term used to identify all workers on the farm or in food-processing plants. Farm workers in the U. S. Crop Corps will include men, women, boys, and girls who work full-time, or part-time, during seasonal or emergency harvest periods who are not considered as members of the farm family unit. . . . whether they are skilled, semi-skilled or untrained volunteers. . . . whether they are residents of this country or imported from nearby foreign countries.

Youth volunteering for farm work in the U. S. Crop Corps will be called "Victory Farm Volunteers" which is also affiliated with the High School Victory Corps sponsored by the Office of Education.

Women who work full-time or during seasonal periods of not less than one month will be members of the Women's Land Army of the U. S. Crop Corps.

Other workers not qualifying for these two groups will be known simply as U. S. Crop Corps workers.

Why the U. S. Crop Corps is Needed. A critical shortage of farm workers threatens the production of farmers who have been asked to grow the biggest food supply in history. The farm goals this year call for 8 percent more food production than last year's record, 38 percent more than the average for the 1935-39 period. Many experienced farm workers and workers employed by food processors have gone into the Armed Forces or into war plants. The mobility of seasonal farm workers who normally follow the crops has been cut by shortages of gasoline and tires and by congested rail and bus transportation facilities. To compensate for the lack of sufficient experienced labor, farmers are working harder than ever and enlisting the aid of every available part-time worker they can. Men, women, boys, and girls are urgently needed to join the U. S. Crop Corps and help farmers bring in and process the Nation's biggest food crop. It won't be easy work, but it will be striking a blow at the Axis that will help to hasten along the day of final victory.

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How Many are Needed. . . . At the height of the season about 3,500,000 U. S. Crop Corps workers will be needed in addition to the workers who were on the farms at the beginning of the year. Some of these extra workers will be the ones who usually come back to farm work in the summer from wintertime odd jobs or from schools and colleges. The majority will be new workers. . . . many of them untrained city people untrained but willing to invest their time and energy in a war activity.

It is hoped that it will be possible to recruit 3,500,000 farm workers, including:

500,000 high school youth (250,000 for farm work during the entire summer vacation period).

60,000 women for the Women's Land Army (50,000 for seasonal farm work of a month or more and 10,000 for year-round work).

300,000 women for part-time work.

50,000 Mexican, about 5,000 from the Bahamas, about 10,000 from Jamaica.

The remainder will be city men who can devote some time to helping farmers with their crops, year-round skilled men farm workers, seasonal skilled, and semi-skilled farm workers.

In addition to these farm workers, many, many workers. . . . men, women, youth. . . . will be required for work in food processing plants.

It has been estimated that about 90 percent of the farmers' extra requirements for labor will have to be provided from urban and rural areas within the local area.

Who Are Eligible. . . . Men and women, boys and girls. Lawyers, school teachers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, salesmen, housewives, carpenters, merchants, high school and college youth. . . . anyone who is not devoting his or her full time to other war work. . . . anyone who can devote week ends, one or two days a week, a vacation period, or full-time to helping the farmer. . . . anyone who can aid local canners in processing the harvested crops. . . . anyone who is serious about working hard to help win the war on the home front.

Boys and girls of the Victory Farm Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older, although the greatest demand will be for boys who are at least 16 years old and girls who are at least 18 years old.

Enrollees in the Women's Land Army must be at least 18 years of age and have a physician certify as to their physical capacity for hard farm work. They must be willing to work on a farm continuously for not less than one month.

Other qualified women are eligible as U. S. Crop Corpsworkers for shorter periods to help during the harvest or for other part-time emergency jobs on the farm or in a food processing plant.

Will They Be Trained. . . . Year-round workers and seasonal farm workers of the U. S. Crop Corps will be given some training to fit them for their duties on the farm. Women joining the Women's Land Army for year-round work will receive from 3 to 6 weeks' training at an agricultural college or similar institution. Women enrolling for 1 month or more for seasonal work will receive less training but will be given some instruction to prepare them for their work and life on a farm.

Youth joining the Victory Farm Volunteers will be given special preparation in school. Talks by leading farmers, the vocational agriculture teacher, the county agent, and others, as well as experience work on farms over weekends, will give these recruits some advice on what to expect. They will also be given physical conditioning before starting to work on the farm.

Before being placed, year-round workers drawn from less-productive farming areas are being given a week or more of intensive training, particularly in farm machinery operation and dairying. Training is now being carried on at agricultural institutions in 25 States.

Cooperating organizations, such as the Volunteer Offices of Defense Councils, Boy Scouts, the Campfire Girls, the Y. M. C. A., the American Women's Voluntary Service, and others have developed leader training courses for group leaders of prospective Crop Corps recruits.

What U. S. Crop Corps Workers Can Do. . . . This will depend upon the training, skill, aptitude, strength, and age of the individual workers. However, there are many jobs on the farm that even inexperienced, but willing, Crop Corps workers might soon learn to do. For instance, picking berries and fruits. . . . digging potatoes. . . . weeding and hoeing. . . . cleaning, grading, and packing vegetables. . . . cleaning barns, stables, and poultry houses. . . . gathering eggs. . . . feeding and watering stock. . . . cooling and handling milk. . . . painting. . . keeping records. . . . driving trucks. . . . spraying. . . . and many, many other jobs. In addition to working on many of these jobs, women and girls can also release the experienced farm woman for work in the field by handling for her such farm home duties as taking care of children. . . . cooking meals. . . . canning, drying, and preserving. . . washing and ironing. . . . sewing. . . . and the like.

Wages. . . . U. S. Crop Corps workers will be paid according to the length of time employed and the type of work done. These wages will be paid by the farmer or food processor for whom the work is performed.

Insignia. . . . The insignia for the U. S. Crop Corps is a blue C with its inside edge toothed like a cog wheel. Inside of the C is a red sheaf of wheat. The sheaf of wheat symbolizes food production and the toothed edge of the C symbolizes food processing. When reproduced in color, the C is flag blue and the sheaf of wheat, flag red. No identifying pins or buttons will be provided nationally, but, if desired, local cooperating organizations or groups may undertake to finance the cost of providing such pins or buttons.

Special insignia for the Women's Land Army of the U. S. Crop Corps is a triangular shield with the letters "W L A" and the emblem of the Crop Corps. The basic colors are red, white, and blue. In the form used for seasonal or part-time workers the background is white, the triangle, letters and sheaf of wheat red and the Crop Corps "C" is blue.

The insignia to be worn by full-time workers is reversed in color. The background is red with the letters and sheaf white, the Crop Corps "C" remaining blue.

The insignia is intended to be worn on the hat of the uniform ensemble. Special insignia for the Victory Farm Volunteers of the U. S. Crop Corps is a red C of the same design as the overall U. S. Crop Corps insignia. It is filled with a blue circle in which the letters "V F V" are in white.

Design of the overall U. S. Crop Corps, Women's Land Army, and Victory Farm Volunteers insignias are attached.

Certificate of Service. . . . U. S. Crop Corps workers will be eligible for a Certificate of Service at the time they are placed for work on the farm or in a food processing plant. A special pocket-size card will be provided for migratory farm workers, either domestic or foreign. A reproduction of the certificate is attached.

Local Campaigns as Needed. . . . The U. S. Crop Corps will be organized all over the Nation by the Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the State land-grant colleges, working in cooperation with the U.S.E.S., the O.C.D., and other Federal and State agencies and with civic organizations and groups who wish to cooperate.

The State tie-in should be with the State Director of Extension, located with the State agricultural college. The local tie-in should be with the county agricultural agent.

Local recruiting drives for U. S. Crop Corps members will be determined by local farm requirements and will vary from area to area and from season to season. Committees of volunteer citizens representing various local interests will be appointed to coordinate local drives with the requirements of farmers and the plans of the county agricultural agent. Local Defense Councils and many other groups have already been active in this respect.

Persons interested in joining the U. S. Crop Corps should await the local call for help which will come over the radio, in the newspaper, or by personal canvass.

Whom to Consult. . . . As stated previously, the recruitment drive will be dependent upon local farm labor needs and will be started when, where, and if such a drive is necessary. Therefore, await the local call. However, where and when recruitment and placement programs are in full swing, the following instructions would apply in the main for obtaining additional information:

If you are a high school student and want to join the Victory Farm Volunteers of the U. S. Crop Corps, see your high school principal. The Victory Farm Volunteers is a part of the High School Victory Corps.

If you are a city boy or girl out of school and want to join the Victory Farm Volunteers, see your nearest high school principal, the county superintendent of school, or arrangements might be made through a local youth organization, such as the Boy Scouts or the Y.M.C.A.

If you are a city man and can join the U. S. Crop Corps for work on the farm or in a food-processing plant during vacation or other periods, see your nearest U. S. Employment Service office or your county agricultural agent (or your local Defense Council may be able to help).

If you are a city woman and want to join the U. S. Crop Corps for part-time work or the Women's Land Army branch for full-time or seasonal work of a month or more, see your nearest U. S. Employment Service office or your county agricultural agent (or your local Defense Council may be able to help). In some areas, enlistment can be arranged through women's organizations, such as the A.W.V.S. and the Y.W.C.A., or the county O.C.D. office.

If you are a farmer and need U. S. Crop Corps workers on your farm, see your county agricultural agent.

If you are a canning plant operator and need emergency help go to your nearest U. S. Employment Service office.

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U.S. CROP CORPS

Certificate of Service



Awarded to _____

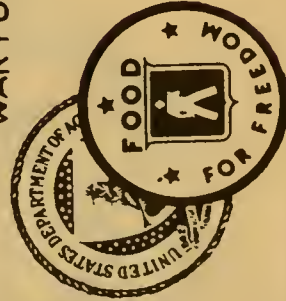
For patriotic service on a farm
or in a food processing factory

Chester Davis _____

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATOR

Franklin Miller _____

CHAIRMAN, WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION



STATE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

DATE _____

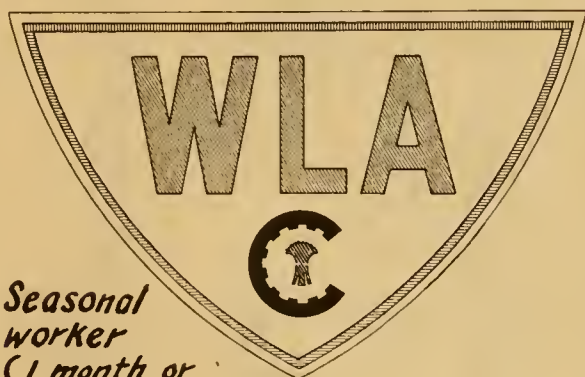
INSIGNIA OF THE U. S. CROP CORPS

CROP CORPS

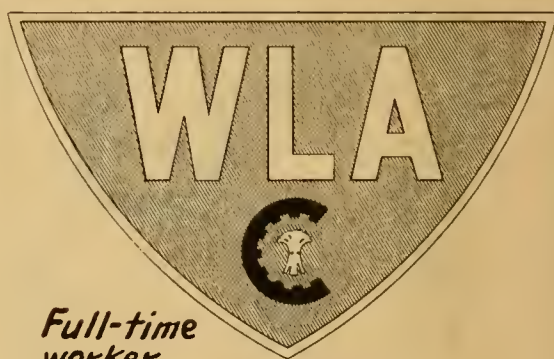


*(Either form
may be
used.)*

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY



*Seasonal
worker
(1 month or
longer)*




*Full-time
worker*

VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS



COLOR KEY

 RED

 BLUE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



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